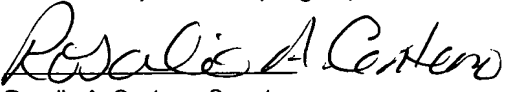


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Rosalie A. Centeno, Secretary

In the Application of Rolf Plötz

Ser.No.: Not Yet Known (Based on PCT/EP2003/011282 filed October 11, 2003 and German priority document 102 47 751.5 filed 13 October 2002)

For: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR WELDING RAILS WITH HEAT TREATED HEAD USING SEPARATE ALLOY ADDITIVES

Filed on: April 13, 2005

Customer Number: 30996

Commissioner of Patents

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING PCT NATIONAL STAGE APPLICATION

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified National Stage PCT application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 3 of this paper.